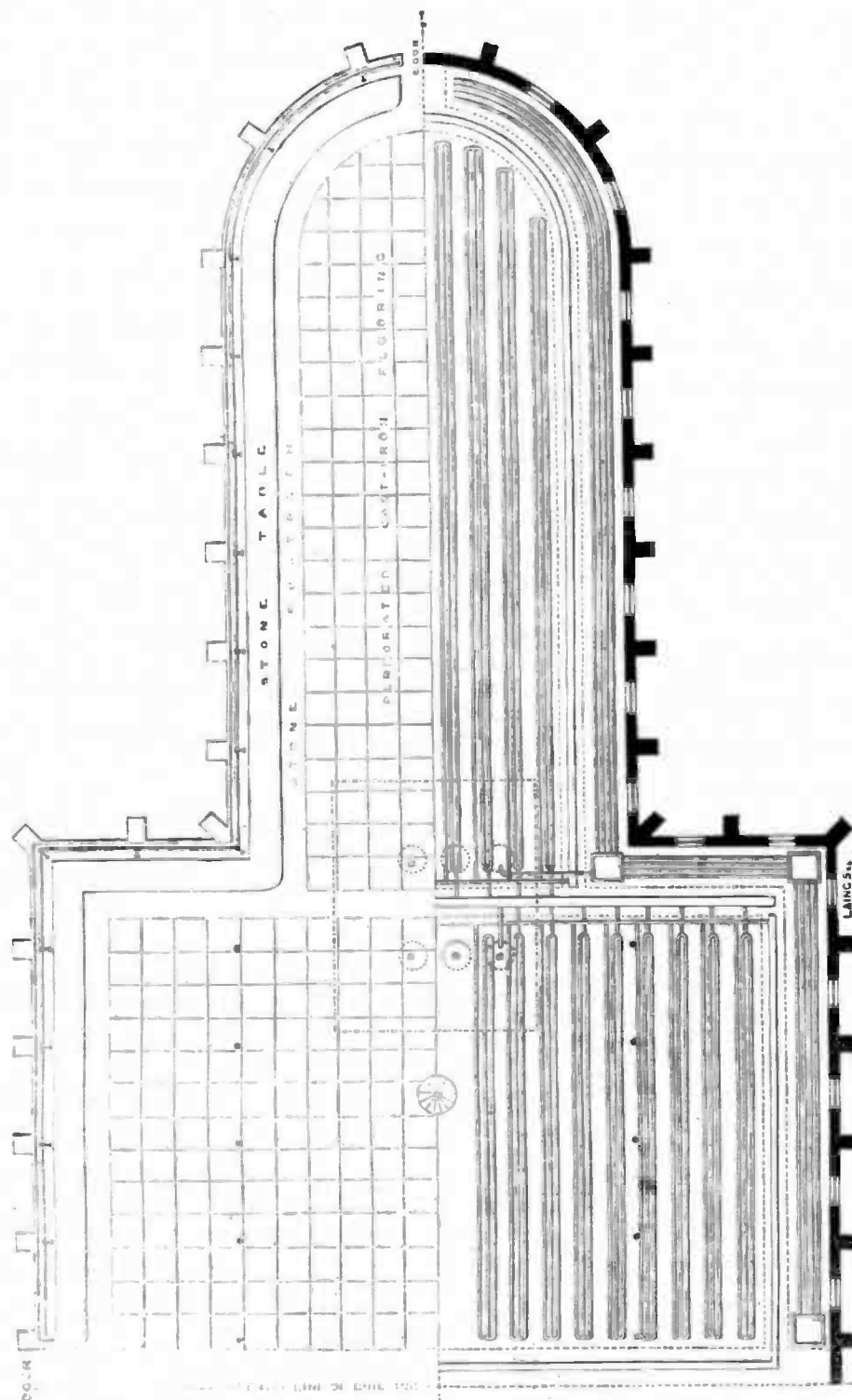


PLAN OF PALM-HOUSE, KEW.



and made great improvements in the grounds. During the two following reigns little was done: the gardens seemed of little use, and the public called for inquiry. A committee was accordingly appointed to examine into their condition, and in 1840, a report by Dr. Lindley was the result.

In 1841, the present director, Sir William Hooker, entered upon his duties, and from that time to this, enlargements, alterations, and improvements have been going on, with the view of rendering the gardens useful to the

public. One of his first steps was to open the Botanic Gardens and plant-houses to all decently attired persons, from one to six o'clock; and numbers, it is hardly necessary to say, avail themselves of the privilege, which it glads us to hear is very rarely, if ever, abused. Last year there were 70,000 visitors, all conducting themselves well, besides 22,000 who went over the pleasure grounds, which are open two days a week, from Midsummer to Michaelmas. Sir William has published a useful little guide for strangers, which, by the

way, we should like to see sold at sixpence instead of a shilling, so that it might get into the hands of all who go there.*

In the beginning of the year 1846, he gave a view of the new piers and wrought-iron

* There is one suggestion in this "Guide" which may be usefully reprinted. The Museum will shortly constitute a highly important feature in the gardens. "Among the persons who may come to survey it, as well as the living plants there, will always be travellers or merchants who hold intercourse with various parts of the globe, and who would gladly contribute to this great national collection. Brief instructions, printed expressly for distribution, may be had of the director, or of the curator, Mr. John Smith."